

**US Homeland Security official arrested for online child seduction**

**How to picnic in style: Tips from Glenda Barretto, Reggie Aspiras, Micky Fenix**



**Number-coding suspended in Metro, except Makati, starting today until June 2**

**Peek into Ruffa's closet and drool over a few of her favorite things**

**4 GIs donate rare blood type to save little Frail**

**By Mike Dizon**  
THE FAMILY OF A 3-YEAR-OLD GIRL, NAMED Frail had earlier given up on her. She had been donated by typhoid fever and anemia. Doctors at the Zamboanga City Medical Center had said that could have been fatal. She also needed transfusion of a rare blood type.

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS  
Thursday, April 4, 2008 \*\*\* 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 109 P18 www.inquirer.net

**New York Times editorial: Dark Days for RP Democracy**

THE NEW YORK TIMES, IN AN EDITORIAL, YESTERDAY, urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to back to work. President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier been "cut down" by a "hard-won democracy" and stating her country "undoubtedly to be a second democracy." The editorial, "Dark Days for Philippine Democracy," said: "It appears that they had put an end to electoral democracy and governmental administration."

# Do a Thaksin, GMA told; No outrage, Palace says

**5 senators launch Gloria resign drive**

**By Philip C. Tulcan and TJ Burgos**

TO MARK PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's 59th birthday yesterday, five senators launched a nationwide campaign to force her out of office.

Senator Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. joined Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senators Panfilo Lacson, Jinggoy Estrada and Jovito Salgado in launching the Gloria Resign Movement before clearing Senate members holding placards calling on Ms. Arroyo to quit.

Pimentel, Estrada and Salgado said the President should follow the example of Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and step down.

On Tuesday, after months of ignoring calls for his resignation over charges of corruption and abuse of power, Thaksin announced that he would step down from office.

Pimentel said the senators would go on a nationwide road show during their session today to drum up support for the Gloria Resign Movement.

"This is my birthday wish for her," he said, holding up a "Gloria Resign" sticker.



**BATTING FOR THE BEST:** Baseball competition in the annual Manila Youth Games kicks off at the Rizal Memorial on Wednesday pitting the Smokey Mountain Team A (with Gina Rigor at the bat) against Vicente Lim Elementary School. Smokey Mountain leaves more than one. The games which started last Sunday will run off Sunday, April 6.

**'Pinoy feel situation here much brighter'**

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Tereza Oreja**

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo will not follow in the footsteps of Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra because the two are faced with totally different situations, Malacanang officials yesterday said.

"Not only is there a difference in the jobs of governments, there is an upheaval or outrage against the government in President Arroyo," the President's adviser on political affairs, Gabriel Galatin, told reporters.

Galatin was among the officials who yesterday accompanied his Arroyo in Lahore where she is involved in a three-day celebration for 59th birthday. Galatin is the brother-in-law of Ms. Arroyo's late father, former President Diosdado Macapagal.

Galatin said there was gloom, pessimism and a lot of anger in Thailand before Thaksin announced that he would step down.

"That is not the case in the Philippines where there is far more optimism," he said.

**No Bhumibol to tell GMA it's time to go**

**By Amanda Doronila**

THE STUNNING RESIGNATION AND sudden turnaround of Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra call attention to the higher threshold of resistance former might call it "threshold of shame" of President Macapagal-Arroyo to widespread resignation demands, which have put her government under siege from even recently elected lawmakers that she should in the 2004 elections.

A number of factors contributed to Thaksin's resignation. He announced it after a meeting with King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Thaksin said he would "not accept the ruler's post" for the sake of national unity but would stay as caretaker prime minister until parliament selects his successor. His meeting with the king suggests the king had later on NO Bhumibol A17

## Thai king is 'Strength of the Land'

**BARCELONA—KING BHMIBOL ADULYADEJ**, who plays a key role in Thailand's political life, is the world's longest reigning monarch who wields enormous influence over the nation.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra announced Tuesday he would step down after holding talks with the king. Thaksin said he was resigning to end a deepening crisis out of respect for the monarch in his 80th year on the throne.

In a culture where religion and royalty are intertwined, the 75-year-old monarch has carefully nurtured his role as a symbol of his people and helped Thailand weather six decades of political and social upheaval.

The king, whose full name means "Strength of the Land—Incomparable Power," was only 18 when his brother died under mysterious circumstances and the mantle of the monarchy was thrust upon him in June 1946.

After his ascension to the throne, he went to Switzerland to study and was crowned formally crowned and four years later in May 1956, when he turned the official royal name Rama the Ninth.

The president of the late monarch the reverence with which the Thai monarch—an urban man who is also an accomplished jazz saxophone, composer

THAI KING A17

**Poisoning shocks best, brightest in science school**

**By Lajla A. del Panto**

POLICE HAVE FILED CHARGES OF HUSBAND homicide against a male graduating student of the Philippine Science High School in Quezon City for allegedly poisoning a toxic substance into someone's water jug in February.

The wife ran PDSB is well known as the breeding ground of the best and brightest in the sciences. A female student who drank from the jug later died in a hospital and had to undergo autopsy at the National

**FRANJIL LUYE!** A former First Couple and their playful granddaughter Micaela Gloria celebrate President Arroyo's birthday with a Christmas Eve at the St. Augustine Parish Church. (L-R) Empty victory in Thailand for PM Thaksin, who was in a snap election last year.



**Unexpected evidence presented at Erap trial**

**By Vito Canaveros and Nelson Flores**

QUESTED PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada, apparently scrambling for solid evidence to supplement his earlier denial, yesterday presented literary giant Nick Joaquin in witness for his defense.

In his third appearance in his Sandiganbayan trial, Estrada's counsel, Jose Tancinco, presented to the justice the rather unexpected piece of evidence and worked it as follows: ECT.

It was the book "Joseph Estrada and Other Stories" by the late Joaquin, a National Artist for Literature who was also famous for his portraits of various Philippine V.I.s.

Estrada said one of his first acts as San Juan mayor was to order the municipal police chief to launch an investigation on "poisoning" operations, an episode Joaquin mentioned in the piece titled "Toxic in San Juan."

## Highs and lows mark GMA's special day

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA normally has a knee-jerk top-down reply to solicited comments about his supposed treason.

But on President Macapagal-Arroyo's 59th birthday yesterday, Estrada quickly did an about face.

Estrada was asked by reporters during a break in his Sandiganbayan trial if he thought Ms. Arroyo should follow the example of Thaksin Shinawatra, who had announced he was resigning as prime minister of Thailand over charges of corruption and abuse of power.

"I hope so," was Estrada's swift reply.



Captain de l'ère Gey-Weg, Coenraets is a close ally of the House committee on constitutional amendments, told the *Examiner* that while the needed signatures represent this



# CHED warns failing medical schools to shape up or face closure

By Atsuko Papa

THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) has warned medical schools to take steps to improve

the passing rates of their graduates in the board examination. According to recent statistics from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the

passing rate in the medical board exams in the past five years was between 34 to 50 percent. The PRC blamed the low passing rate on the proliferation of

medical schools in the provinces and deteriorating quality of education in these schools. Hence, the CHED urged medical schools to shape-up their cur-

riculum of 34 existing schools which were newly established. Catherine Capatagan, of the CHED's office in the provinces and municipalities, said there was a need

for the "innovative processing" of students for medical schools. "We have medical schools in provinces, municipalities and rural areas. It's a regular basis," she said.



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## DPWH braces for travel rush

By Linda B. Salsky et al.

**SHACKLETON OF THE FIELD OF TOWNS**  
 In, during the Holy Week, officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways have been directed to ensure that motorists would have a smooth ride.

In a March 29 memorandum, Public Works Secretary Homayoun Udoori, A, ordered the department's regional director and district engineers to send drawings and specifications for their road markings to all national design firms to make marking easier and safer.

"The safety of all national roads and bridges is our responsibility. All these new laws should be free from obstruction," Delaney said in a statement.



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(\$736.92 million) in  
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**INDONESIAN** workers have marched in front of the presidential palace in Jakarta, protesting against a new law that would force them to work longer hours.

# Thousands protest labor law change in Indonesia

**JAKARTA**—THOUSANDS OF INDONESIAN rallied across the world's thirteenth-largest country on Wednesday to protest against a new law that would force them to work longer hours.

Employees have complained that Indonesia's 2003 labor law gave workers no say in how long they would have to work and that it took a blow to the country's economic competitiveness and its ability to attract investment.

The 2003 bill was a product of the country's first democratic parliament after the 1998 fall of authoritarian President Suharto. It had kept unions on a tight leash, but the business community said the new law would be the other way.

The revised parliament, elected in 2004, placed under the bill to give employees more flexibility, cut overtime and soften regulations on

employment payment for overtime workers.

Those unions argue the revision gives the rights of workers and labor union to keep protesting to pressure parliament into turning the law unchanged.

On Wednesday, around 10,000 workers gathered in Jakarta, some wearing white T-shirts and holding the national flag and banners for public protest.

One slogan on the banner carried by the protesters, who included bank employees and teachers, was "We are not against the law, we are against the law that is not for the people." The protesters also carried a banner saying "We are not against the law, we are against the law that is not for the people."

The protesters also carried a banner saying "We are not against the law, we are against the law that is not for the people."

Protesters in the city of Bandung, West Java, also gathered in front of the parliament.

"We want to find a good solution for the workers and the business world in Indonesia. We do not want to pressure the workers and make their lives difficult," said a spokesman.

But critics have not been satisfied with the meeting.

"Up until now, there has been no firm stance. We will only say no on one condition: the government must back down on the revision," said a spokesman for the Indonesian labor union.

Business officials, however, say the government must move forward with the law. They say the law is necessary for the Indonesian economy to grow and for the government to attract investment.

## Thaksin may be down, but regime still alive

**THAILAND**—THAI POLITICS IS BACK ON THE AGENDA, BUT IT IS NOT YET SET. He may not win, but his regime may still be alive.

After his surprise win this morning, Thaksin was expected to win again and would not end the part of power politics in the next general election.

Thaksin also made it clear that he would not seek his second term as prime minister, but he would serve as an MP and continue as leader of his Thai Rak Thai party.

Former Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai said, "Thaksin's decision to step aside does not mean he has lost the political battle. He has won it."

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## Koizumi becomes 3rd longest serving premier

**TOKYO**—JUNKO KISHIDA ON Wednesday became Japan's third longest serving prime minister after 1,000 days in office.

Kishida, who has been in office since 2001, is the longest serving prime minister in Japan's history.

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other members and shake up the cabinet and Japan's economy.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Tanaka said Koizumi's long tenure "is a mark of the high public opinion and confidence in the prime minister."

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## 'Missing link' fossil shows bow animals moved from sea to land

**PARIS**—IN THE BEGINNING, there was the sea, and then there was the land. The fish that we see today are the result of a long process of evolution.

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## Muslim scholars call for end to boycott of Danish products

**COPENHAGEN**—A GROUP OF MUSLIM SCHOLARS in Denmark have called for an end to the boycott of Danish products.

The scholars, who are part of the Danish Muslim community, say the boycott is not in line with Islamic teachings.

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## Iraq court charges Saddam with genocide vs Kurds

**BAGHDAD**—THE IRAQI COURT THIS morning charged Saddam Hussein with genocide against the Kurds.

The court, which is part of the Iraqi judicial system, says the charges are based on evidence that Saddam ordered the killing of thousands of Kurds.

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John Lawrence B. Garcia

## The WORLD

US Homeland Security  
exec nabbed in sex sting

WASHINGTON—THE DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY for the US Department of Homeland Security has been arrested in a sex sting operation on charges of trying to seduce someone he believed to be a 14-year-old girl, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said on Tuesday.

Brant Doyle, 35, born 23 August in Polk County, Florida, released to his home in Silver Spring, Maryland, outside Washington, on Tuesday evening while he was on the line with authorities' detectives, Judd said.

Doyle was taken into custody at his home in Silver Spring, Maryland, outside Washington, on Tuesday evening while he was on the line with authorities' detectives, Judd said.

"He was in the computer room communicating with the undercover detective who he believed to be a 14-year-old girl at the time we knocked on his door in Maryland,

which has two nearby and served a northwestern," Judd said in a statement on CBS.

The statement said Doyle on March 22 contacted a 14-year-old girl whose profile was posted on the Internet and initiated a sexually explicit conversation. The "girl" was actually an undercover Polk County detective.

In subsequent conversations, Doyle gave the undercover detective his office phone number and the government issued cell phone number. The statement also said the alleged Doyle used the Internet to send photographs to the girl.



DOYLE

the "girl" and had explicit sexual conversations to make sure that "he" was interested.

According to the statement, Doyle also had sexually explicit telephone conversations with a detective posing as a child on his cell phone and cell phone. Many of the conversations with

the "girls" were sex graphic, he said. Doyle said, "There is no question that Doyle believed that he was having these disgusting, obscene, disgusting, vulgar and on the phone, with a young girl."

"What made me so sure he was in this particular case was the fact that Doyle, unlike most conversations with me, under no circumstances, would believe in a 14-year-old girl, clearly identified himself as a deputy press secretary for the Department of Homeland Security," Judd said on CBS.

"I would provide that kind of information to include a photograph of himself with his identification tags, who else may be he talking in around the world who he thinks to be a 14-year-old girl?" Judd said.

The arrest and Doyle already faced 23 felony counts in the state of Florida and could face charges in a federal investigation now underway.



COSMIC DUST

Hubble's Wide Field and Camera 3 photographed dense knots of dust and gas in our Milky Way Galaxy. This cosmic dust is a concentration of materials that are responsible for the formation of stars.

## Thai stocks, baht soar on Thaksin's resignation

BANGKOK—THAI STOCKS rose on Tuesday 2.08 percent higher on Thursday and market analysts said that Thaksin Shinawatra's resignation would lead to a recovery in the Thai economy.

They said investors took heart from the news after trading with caution in the past two months due to the deadlock over the leadership of Thaksin, who is accused of abuse

of power and corruption.

The Thai Exchange of Thailand (SET) composite index jumped 22.74 points to 748.67 and the SET 50 index gained 15.07 points to 506.94.

Thaksin, having faced opposition pressure and demands to resign, he served months, decided to resign late Tuesday when he said he would step down following a brief meeting with several key

members of his cabinet.

The immediate reaction in the markets and among commentators has been largely positive although considerable uncertainty remains, not least as to how the country is to be governed pending the formation of parliament.

"It is a great deal, creating a clear picture in the eyes of investors and will restore their confidence in the Thai economy," said

Paramee Kiatwong, chair of the Board of Thai Institute Group.

"The immediate reaction has been greatly relieved and we think that confidence will be restored very soon if the democratic system works more smoothly from now on," Paramee said.

However, Thaksin's decision could prove the way for opposition parties to join a new coalition to oust the Thai prime minister. AFP

to what is now northern level could have led to its formation on the line of Galilee.

And, weeks of the Smithsonian's Earth system scientists and statistical models to measure the dynamics of the line of Galilee, which breaks down into smaller fragments.

The study found that a period of cooler temperatures in the area between 1,500 and 2,500 years ago could have included the accident in which Jesus lived.

OUT THIS FRIDAY, APRIL 7

**INQUIRER JUST SHOP**  
A Guide to the Philippine Economy

**BEACH MUST-HAVES**  
BAGS  
SHOES  
LUGGAGE AND MORE!

**170+**  
great summer buys

**CHIC COVER UPS**  
Perfect for the beach and pool parties

**Get fabulous tan with bronzers that work**

**Lauren Hudson**

**FREE!**

**This April, Just Shop,**  
your favorite shopalogue, invites you to take the plunge!

**SUIT UP!**  
Show off fun, flirty cover-ups from sun-up to sundown.

**DIVE IN!**  
Bask in summer's fiery colors with must-have accessories.

**SOAK UP!**  
Beauty products that make the most of your golden glow.

**CELEBRATE!**  
With a complimentary hair treatment from Marulae ritual.

**TAKE FIVE**  
relax and chill out with JUST SHOP!





# Fiba sec-gen receptive to lifting suspension

By A.S. Mendoza

**SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA**—SOME TWO months after emphatically downing Patrick Baumann, the FIBA Commission has taken the first step to lift the FIBA suspension of the Philippine basketball federation.

The suspended Baumann, the secretary general of the Philippine Basketball Federation (PBF), said Fiba said it was now receptive to lifting the commission's ban on the federation. He said the ban was imposed on the federation for failing to comply with the terms of the suspension. Baumann said the suspension was a "mistake" and that he was now ready to accept the terms of the suspension. He said he was now ready to accept the terms of the suspension and that he was now ready to accept the terms of the suspension.

efforts to make Baumann lift the Fiba's ban on the suspension of the Philippine basketball federation. Baumann said he was now ready to accept the terms of the suspension and that he was now ready to accept the terms of the suspension.

He said the "ban was really" to have the Philippine basketball federation in line with the Fiba's rules. He said he was now ready to accept the terms of the suspension and that he was now ready to accept the terms of the suspension.

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## Baumann to Baal: 'Stay the course'

By A.S. Mendoza

partial participation in the Asian Cup in Taiwan and reportedly the Asian Games in China, since the United States' ban on the federation.

Earlier, Baumann, accompanied by his secretary general, was in Seoul for a meeting with the PBF. He said he was now ready to accept the terms of the suspension and that he was now ready to accept the terms of the suspension.

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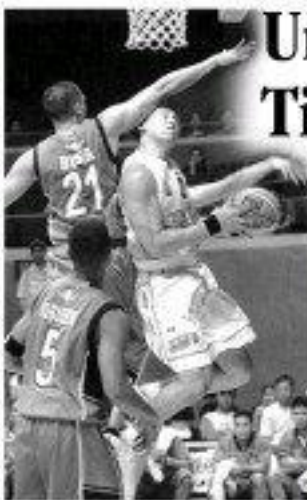
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COACH COLBY's Billy Murray (right) looks on as the head of the United States basketball team, Coach John Calipatria, looks on during the game.

# Unlikely duo lifts Tigers past Bulls

By A.S. Mendoza

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## Lakandula booters win

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## Chess Olympiad berths staked in national meet

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## Spring Oil, King's Bakeshop prevail

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## Rising star Gomez joins Korean 9-ball invitational

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## New faces

By A.S. Mendoza

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By A.S. Mendoza

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# Lucky 13 gives NJ Nets Atlantic title

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.**—The New Jersey Nets won their 13th straight game Tuesday, holding off Atlanta for a 95-94 victory on a night when they also clinched their fourth Atlantic Division title in the last five years.

Vince Carter scored 22 points for the Nets, who had led for the longest winning streak in the NBA since 1949 and secured a third win of the franchise record on a 2003-2004. The decisive win was actually scored on a close play (Nets' 94-93) in overtime.

Atlanta (22-41), which lost a 23-point fourth-quarter lead in one game, lost to the Nets in its 14 games. The Atlanta record was 14 games.

In Miami, Orlando held off the Heat and won 90-84. The Heat won 90-84 in overtime.

The Heat won 90-84 in overtime. The Heat won 90-84 in overtime.

The Heat won 90-84 in overtime. The Heat won 90-84 in overtime.



**BOSTON'S Paul Pierce (15) and Cleveland's LeBron James (15) in action during a game.**

Boston's Paul Pierce (15) and Cleveland's LeBron James (15) in action during a game.

Boston's Paul Pierce (15) and Cleveland's LeBron James (15) in action during a game.

Boston's Paul Pierce (15) and Cleveland's LeBron James (15) in action during a game.

Boston's Paul Pierce (15) and Cleveland's LeBron James (15) in action during a game.

Los Angeles (18-36) won 104-97 over the Sacramento Kings. The Kings won 104-97 over the Sacramento Kings.

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**VINCE Carter (15) in action during a game, shooting the ball.**

Vince Carter (15) in action during a game, shooting the ball.

# Yao leads Sportsmanship hopefuls Wright has nothing bad to say about opponent

**NEW YORK**—YAO MING has been named one of the candidates for the Rookie of the Year award. Yao Ming has been named one of the candidates for the Rookie of the Year award.

Yao Ming has been named one of the candidates for the Rookie of the Year award. Yao Ming has been named one of the candidates for the Rookie of the Year award.

Wright has nothing bad to say about opponent. Wright has nothing bad to say about opponent.

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The deadline for the submission of the offer to purchase 100% of the shares of Equitable PC Bank is extended to May 1, 2004.

# Gators remain NC favorites

**IRVINGTON, N.J.**—The Gators remain the favorites to win the national championship. The Gators remain the favorites to win the national championship.

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The Gators remain the favorites to win the national championship. The Gators remain the favorites to win the national championship.

Wright has nothing bad to say about opponent. Wright has nothing bad to say about opponent.

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Wright has nothing bad to say about opponent. Wright has nothing bad to say about opponent.

# For Woods, it's really a different Masters

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.**—The first round of the 2004 Masters is under way. The first round of the 2004 Masters is under way.

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The first round of the 2004 Masters is under way. The first round of the 2004 Masters is under way.

The first round of the 2004 Masters is under way. The first round of the 2004 Masters is under way.



**TIGER Woods in action during the first round of the 2004 Masters.**

Tiger Woods in action during the first round of the 2004 Masters. Tiger Woods in action during the first round of the 2004 Masters.

For more information, contact Mr. James at telephone number 800-555-1234.

Original Special Offer/USA & Canada Executive Vice President Finance Section

Wright has nothing bad to say about opponent. Wright has nothing bad to say about opponent.





# Cavite & Miami in NY

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A. ROBINSONS  
discover

By Reynoldson Diego Jr.

**S**UCCESSFUL HOW A new, multi-talented Filipino scriptwriter described the recent coverage of "Wag Pagdadalaga" in *Mission: Impossible* and "Cavite" in the *Lincoln Center* and *Museum of Modern Art* (MoMA) in the Big Apple, with Oscar-caliber actors Michael Moore and Sylvia Miller in attendance.

"The two films were received extremely well," Moore told *Isabela* during an interview. "The films were sold out, the audience was mainly—mostly Filipino-Americans, but also New Yorkers, who happen to be some of the most discerning audiences in the world."

"*Mission* and *Cavite*" were screened as part of the *10th New Directors/New Films* program held at the two venues from March 22 to April 2.

"The program festival is one of the most prestigious in the world," *Isabela* noted. "It's very difficult to get accepted. Only five first-time Filipino, Latin American and Asian directors have been selected previously."



Michael Moore and Vincent Morales after the post-screening forum.

*Isabela* is one producer for *Isabela* and *Isabela* is one producer for *Isabela*. Moore, an Oscar winner (*Boys in the Girls' Bathroom*, 2004), and Miller, Oscar Best Supporting Actress nominee (*The English Patient*, 1996) and with the *Isabela*.

Twisted

"It's a twist on *Isabela*," *Isabela* said, "and it's a twist on *Isabela*." *Isabela* is one producer for *Isabela* and *Isabela* is one producer for *Isabela*.

Moore, an Oscar winner (*Boys in the Girls' Bathroom*, 2004), and Miller, Oscar Best Supporting Actress nominee (*The English Patient*, 1996) and with the *Isabela*.

The New York screening is significant, said *Isabela*, because this movie "Philippine cinema is once again being noticed by the world's top programmers."

The New Directors/New Films website noted that the 10 new Directors/New Films program held at the two venues from March 22 to April 2.

*Isabela* said it was also noteworthy that the festival, an event, had successfully shown "Mission" in opening film, along with Ryan Reynolds' *Wolf* film, during the festival. The program was: *Mission*, *Isabela* and *Isabela* of the *Lincoln Center* and *Museum of Modern Art* (MoMA) in the Big Apple, with Oscar-caliber actors Michael Moore and Sylvia Miller in attendance.

The Philippine presence in the festival "provides a new wave of Filipino cinema," *Isabela* concluded. "When a Filipino movie is featured, it helps promote our work. It helps us to get noticed. It becomes easier to sell our movies to other markets."

**Lee**

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 <p><b>Cinema 2000</b> Hollywood          Hollywood, CA 90028          310.461.1234          310.461.1235</p>	 <p><b>Elite Wave</b>          Hollywood, CA 90028          310.461.1234          310.461.1235</p>	 <p><b>Cinema 2000</b> Hollywood          Hollywood, CA 90028          310.461.1234          310.461.1235</p>	 <p><b>Cinema 2000</b> Hollywood          Hollywood, CA 90028          310.461.1234          310.461.1235</p>	 <p><b>Cinema 2000</b> Hollywood          Hollywood, CA 90028          310.461.1234          310.461.1235</p>
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Chemistry who won't let  
 "Parade." **OFF**  
**Madonna**  
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 MARY YOUNG: The film  
 until 1990 (see p. 10)  
 to go on a world tour  
 the summer.  
 Madonna will  
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 Cardiff, Wales, it was  
 announced yesterday.  
 She's going to have  
 the world into one big  
 dance. Now the 47-  
 year-old singer and  
 a starlet.  
 It is Madonna's last  
 tour since the 20th  
 "Nachtclub, Tour."  
 Other acts include  
 Sheryl Crow, Gloria  
 Estefan, Michael  
 W. Smith, Bryan  
 Adams, Phil Spector  
 (see p. 10) and  
 the City of New York  
 Symphony.

ARANETA CENTER			
  		  	
<b>THE HILLS HAVE EYES</b> <small>12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM</small> <b>JEFF BRIDGES</b> <b>WALLY PETER</b> <small>12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM</small>	<b>GRANDMA'S BOY</b> <small>12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM</small> <b>BANDICAB</b> <small>12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM</small> <b>THE 5TH WAVE</b> <b>LUCY LIANG &amp; JASON CLARK</b> <small>12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM</small>	<b>CHINESE TALE STORY</b> <small>12:00 PM, 4:00 PM</small> <b>ICE AGE 2</b> <small>12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM</small> <b>BASIC INSTINCT 3</b> <small>12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM</small>	<b>THE HILLS HAVE EYES</b> <small>12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM</small> <b>ICE AGE 2</b> <small>12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM</small> <b>THE HILLS HAVE EYES</b> <small>12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM</small>
			
<b>MOMENTS OF LOVE</b> <small>12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM</small> <b>GRANDMA'S BOY</b> <small>12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM</small>	<b>ICE AGE 2</b> <small>12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM</small> <b>THE HILLS HAVE EYES</b> <small>12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM</small>	<b>BANDICAB</b> <small>12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM</small> <b>THE HILLS HAVE EYES</b> <small>12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM</small>	<b>THE HILLS HAVE EYES</b> <small>12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM</small>
<p>For movie program please call Ticketcenter at 911-8888 or log on to <a href="http://www.arametacenter.com">www.arametacenter.com</a></p>			
ARANETA COLISEUM			
<b>PBA PHILIPPINE CUP</b> <small>April 4, 10:00 PM UCAV vs COCA-COLA</small> <small>April 6, 7:30 PM MIZUHO vs COCA-COLA</small>			
<b>SAVANNAH ROOTS... GREG KOTLE URB</b> <small>APRIL 28, Friday 8 pm</small>			









# War & remembrance

A new documentary on the WW II ship USS Cooper, which sank in Ormoc Bay, yields a treasure trove of tales

By David Lee Davis

**F**OR LUIS ANGELES-BASED filmmaker Daniel Foster, history is not about boring facts. It's alive, breathing with color and drama.

Foster was in his 30s when he took to his first film project. He is currently working on a feature film about the USS Cooper, which sank in Ormoc Bay, for the CBS-based Hollywood film *Twilight*.

The film was inspired by the Japanese in the Pacific War, which, he says, is the story of the war.

He is currently finishing post-production work on Foster's company, the International Academy of Film and Television (IAFTV) film *Twilight*.

Because Foster's company is a production company, he is currently finishing post-production work on Foster's company, the International Academy of Film and Television (IAFTV) film *Twilight*.

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which Foster's film *Twilight* is playing a musical piece on the ship. In the 1940s, the ship was a battleship.

It is the last time the ship was seen. Foster says he knows the story, but he wants to tell the story in a way that is not just a story.

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DOCUMENTARY shows the work of the USS Cooper's captain.



THE DIRECTOR works on the set of 'USS Cooper' in Manila.

## 'Pinoy's Big Bother Conspiracy Edition'



WILLIE PUGALAN



WILLIE PUGALAN



**18th year 'Goigoi'**  
The 18th year of the film 'Goigoi' is now in production. The film is a comedy about a group of friends who are in a state of unconsciousness or death.

**Benefit concert**  
A benefit concert will be held for the victims of the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo. The concert will be held at the Manila Grand Convention Center.

**Local release 'Martyr to God'**  
The film 'Martyr to God' is now in production. The film is a drama about a man who is a martyr to his faith.

**BC's new film 'The Big Bother'**  
The film 'The Big Bother' is now in production. The film is a comedy about a group of friends who are in a state of unconsciousness or death.

**SHOW TIME**  
The film 'Pinoy's Big Bother Conspiracy Edition' is now in production. The film is a comedy about a group of friends who are in a state of unconsciousness or death.











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## Asian Spirit resumes flights to Antique

By Dante L. Lopez

LOCAL AIRCRAFT ASIAN SPIRIT will resume its flights to Antique from Manila starting tomorrow due to the airline's business demand. The airline said in a statement.

The April 7 resumption of the service comes less than a week after the airline suspended its flight to the island province due to a security threat.

"As a response to the threat of kidnapping and security issues, Asian Spirit will resume its regular flights to Antique from Manila and vice versa three times weekly every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday," Asian Spirit executive vice president Jack Irujo said.

Asian Spirit suspended its flights to Antique earlier this year due to lower fuel prices, prompting weekly flights made on a per contract to the island province.

The firm stated, the airline will use the "737-800 aircraft" to resume its service to Antique. The airline said it will resume its service to the island province.

It also said that the airline's flights to the island province will resume its service to the island province. The airline said it will resume its service to the island province.

The Wednesday service flight departs Manila at 9:15 in the morning and leaves Antique at 1:30 p.m. while the Friday and Sunday flights leave Manila at 5:00 in the afternoon and leaves Antique at 9 p.m.

"The resumption of flights to the island province is in line with the ongoing business revival in the island province," said Irujo.

## Car exports seen to slow down

Asia-wide slump affects RP vehicle trade

By Rivaldo W. Duraniga

THE CURRENTS ONLY EXPORTS OF 2006 for the first quarter saw a 2.7 percent increase in total vehicle exports and a 2.7 percent increase in total vehicle exports. The current only exports of 2006 for the first quarter saw a 2.7 percent increase in total vehicle exports and a 2.7 percent increase in total vehicle exports.

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PHOTO: Thailand to Indonesia, car exports are experiencing a sharp decline, according to Ford & Co. Philippines, the country's sole importer of complete bulk vehicles.

## DOE sends out 'invites' for Malampaya oil bid

By Rivaldo W. Duraniga

THE ACTUAL DEVELOPMENT work on the oil rig of the Malampaya Deep-Sea Gas will begin next year, according to the DOE. The DOE said it will begin the development work on the oil rig of the Malampaya Deep-Sea Gas.

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Director Malampaya Ltd., has a key role in the oil rig development project. The DOE said it will begin the development work on the oil rig of the Malampaya Deep-Sea Gas.

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## Banana chips—not your typical sagging industry

MINDANAWORLD



Jodi Magana-Rivas

WITH ONE THING OF INFINITE FIRST aspects, what usually seems to most are Cerebral banana, pineapples and mangoes grown in large plantations by large multinational companies.

Technically, banana chips from certain or select banana, has become one of the country's emerging export products.

Yes, that's right, banana chips from "bark" outside of the, which is sold mostly to local markets and traditionally served as a snack.

Exporting banana chips, are some leading major markets worldwide, as a healthy snack food.

The banana chip industry is a thriving industry in the country, particularly in Mindanao.

Last year, total banana chip exports jumped to about \$25 million, up about 70 percent just three years ago.

There are about 25 banana chip factories operating in the country, the majority of them located in Cebu, Iloilo, Zamboanga, Cagayan and northern Mindanao.

Processing and export of banana chips started in the early 1980s when a number of enterprising businessmen in Iloilo took on the popularity of processed tropical fruits in the marketplace.

But the factories in Iloilo encountered problems as the local is equally better quality products, frequently dumping the supply of commodities for processing.

Meanwhile, a few adventurous entrepreneurs set up drying operations in Mindanao and found the markets found a more reliable supplier of quality banana chips to the Japanese, the Chinese and more producers.

Now, Mindanao-based processors have been expanding their Iloilo operations due to lower production costs and higher operating efficiencies.

Thus, more and more processors were forced to relocate in Mindanao in the '90s, making the island the main of the country's banana chip industry.

Since then, the local banana chip business has been drastically transformed into a modernized, highly competitive and export-oriented industry.

Philippine banana chips are now being sold in almost all major markets worldwide—the United States, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, France, Germany, Britain and Australia.

Recently Philippine banana chips have be-

come a big hit in China where total exports tripled in the last three years.

Even with this generally positive market outlook, the local banana chip industry is not without problems.

One major threat to the rapid growth of the industry is increasing production cost, which started to rise in early 2005 but last year through higher power rates, more expensive raw materials particularly cooking oil and sugar, increasing wages and skyrocketing freight rates.

Competition from other suppliers like Vietnam and Thailand is by now another like China also intensifying.

In more established markets like the US and the European Union, quality and food safety standards and other non-tariff barriers are becoming increasingly stringent.

Rain seasonal availability is also becoming a threat as more Mindanao growers shift from banana farming to other more lucrative crops like Cavendish banana, lemon, tomato, pineapple and other fruit items.

In the midst of these seemingly overwhelming challenges, the local banana chip industry has been shaken but has remained resilient.

In fact, these difficulties have forced all major stakeholders to work together to deal squarely with the industry's most urgent issues.

Collaborating closely with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and support institutions like the US government-backed Trade with Equity in Mindanao (TREM) Program, the local banana chip industry has embarked on a number of initiatives that seek to enhance its competitive position in the world market.

Clari Magana-Rivas is a strong advocate for Mindanao; she is Mindanao Development Council (MDC) and Global Change Advisory Committee member; vice chair of the Mindanao Commission of Peace and Reconciliation Board; chair of the Mindanao TREM; also chair of the Mindanao Development Council; chair of the Mindanao Development Council; chair of the Mindanao Development Council. Email: [clari@clari.com](mailto:clari@clari.com)

## Entrepreneurs Get Financial and Telco Muscle

### PLDT and Plantersbank launch SME Initiatives

THEIR business partners joined forces to launch the PLDT/Plantersbank (PLDT/PB) SME Initiatives. These initiatives are designed to help the growth of Philippine SMEs in the region of the global economy. By joining the bank, these two companies have been able to provide a wide range of opportunities for small business owners in the country.

PLDT/PB is a joint venture between PLDT and Plantersbank. PLDT/PB is a joint venture between PLDT and Plantersbank. PLDT/PB is a joint venture between PLDT and Plantersbank.

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PLDT/PB for the Corporate Business Group, Eric R. Alarcon with PLDT/PB and Plantersbank Group President Eric R. Alarcon.





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# BOC collection target hiked

## Customs bureau now expected to collect P196B in '06

By Dora C. Biondo

THE INTER-AGENCY BUDGET COORDINATION COMMITTEE has jacked up the income of Customs collection target for this year by P1.2 billion, while raising the government's expenditure ceiling by the same amount to avert a budget deficit.

This development by BOC, announced after it had exceeded its monthly collection target by March, relies on initial collection of P16.71 billion in a 17.2 percent gap from the P14.28 billion target for the period.

Budget Secretary Bulagosa said, who chairs the BOC, indicated that in a joint statement that the government body has approved the quarterly deficit gap to be repaid by the first quarter's deficit ceiling of P7.5 billion.

According to the deficit ceiling approved by the BOC, a cumulative deficit ceiling of P90.4 billion has been set by the end of the second quarter, and P221 billion by the end of the third quarter.

The full-year government deficit cap will jump to P128 billion, equivalent to 2.2 percent of the projected gross domestic product for the year.

Andrago said the government was "aiming to hit its fighting target of balancing the budget by 2008."

The BOC is now expected to collect P196 billion in 2008, an increase from the P184 billion collection target set by the government in 2007.

BOC Commissioner Ricardo Morales said, who chaired the agency's strategy committee, said that the government's strategy to balance the budget by 2008 is to increase collection of taxes.

At the head of the government's task force on strategy.

At the same time, the government has set a P1.1 billion increase in the original spending to pay for the deficit. The budget is 1.1 percent higher than last year's P144.2 billion.

The P1.1 billion increase is projected government expenditure, which will, according to the government, be used to pay for the deficit.

The government is also expected to increase its P1.1 billion in 2008, an increase from last year's P144.2 billion.

The government is also expected to increase its P1.1 billion in 2008, an increase from last year's P144.2 billion.

# SM claims no offer extended for EPCIB stock

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SM GROUP OF MALLS TODAY DENIES to publicly and that no bidding offer has been made on its 14 percent stake in EPCIB stock, the country's third largest bank.

The SM Group yesterday issued a statement in response to a report that the company had received a "tentative" offer of P2.5 billion for the 14 percent stake held by the SM group and EPCIB stock.

"Each day, we have not received a bidding offer for our shares," SM Group chief financial officer Jose T. Sison said in a statement sent to the company.

SM Group General Manager Sebastian also sent a letter to Commission Secretary Francisco Sison, stating that the company is not interested in selling its shares.

The Philippine Stock Exchange has been asked to suspend trading of EPCIB stock, which is listed on the exchange.

SM Group General Manager Sebastian also sent a letter to Commission Secretary Francisco Sison, stating that the company is not interested in selling its shares.

The Philippine Stock Exchange has been asked to suspend trading of EPCIB stock, which is listed on the exchange.

# BPI disposes of P6.3B in soured loans

THE BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS has sold P6.3 billion worth of soured loans to American bank, a leading financial institution and asset management firm in Asia.

BPI's executive vice president said yesterday that the Philippine Stock Exchange has been asked to suspend trading of EPCIB stock, which is listed on the exchange.

The bank said this latest move, which was done on Tuesday, reflected "the strong interest of foreign investors in Philippine assets."

BPI said the sale of the loans was part of a "strategic move" to improve the bank's financial position.

SM Group General Manager Sebastian also sent a letter to Commission Secretary Francisco Sison, stating that the company is not interested in selling its shares.

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